

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 04902 01 OF 03 181227Z

45

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 SY-05

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01 IO-10 ACDA-05

OMB-01 TRSE-00 OPR-02 SCA-01 EB-07 COME-00 AGR-05

/126 W

----- 100063

P R 181133Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9842

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

USIA WASHDC

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 04902 01 OF 03 181227Z

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

CGFMFPAC
CGUSARSUPTHAI
CINCPAC
CINCPACAF
CINCPACFLT
CDR USA CINCPAC SUPPORT GROUP FT SHAFTER HI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
COMUSSAG
CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR
DIA WASHDC
III MAF
7/13 AF
CTF SEVEN SIX
CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 4902

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, ECON, CB
SUBJ: KHMER REPORT --MARCH 18, 1975

GENERAL

1. IN A MOVE WHICH SHOULD IMPROVE CIVILIAN-MILITARY SOLIDARITY, FANK C-IN-C AND CHIEF OF STAFF LT. GEN. SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ RESIGNED AND LT. GEN. SAK SUTSAKHAN TOOK THE POST OF FANK CHIEF OF STAFF. LON NOL OFFERED AN AMNESTY TO DESERTERS IN ORDER TO REVERSE ONE OF THE CHIEF DRAINS ON FANK'S COMBAT MANPOWER. A MASSIVE COMBINED OPERATION WITH HEAVY AIR SUPPORT RETOOK A KEY TOWN NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH'S AIR-PORT. THE SUCCESS RESULTED IN AN IMMEDIATE REDUCTION IN INCOMING ROCKETS ON THE FIELD AND AN END TO INCOMING HOWITZER ROUNDS. FANK IS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE AT NEAK LUONG, WHICH HAS TAKEN HUNDREDS OF INCOMING ROUNDS DAILY AND SUFFERED MAJOR KC GROUND GAINS ON ITS PERIMETER. THE RICE AIRLIFT, EXPANDED TO PROVIDE FREE FOOD TO REFUGEES AND THE NEEDY, HAS BROUGHT IN OVER 700 TONS DAILY SINCE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 04902 01 OF 03 181227Z

MARCH 15. SIHANOUK CONTINUED HIS MEDIA-BASED WAR OF WORDS, AND KHIEU SAMPHAN APPEALED FOR INSURRECTION; BOTH USED STANDARD LANGUAGE WITH LITTLE NEW.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. LON NOL ACCEPTED THE RESIGNATION OF FANK C-IN-C AND CHIEF OF STAFF LT. GEN. SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ MARCH 11

AND APPOINTED LT. GENERAL SAK SUTSAKHAN TO REPLACE FERNANDEZ AS CHIEF OF STAFF. THE MARSHAL ABOLISHED THE POST OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. (LON NOL HIMSELF IS THE SUPREME COMMANDER.) THE MARSHAL CITED CURRENT GKR DIFFICULTIES AND REFERRED TO RECENT PARLIAMENTARY RESOLUTIONS IN NOTING THE NEED TO REVISE THE GKR "POLITICAL-MILITARY" STRUCTURE. IN A NATIONWIDE BROADCAST TO ANNOUNCE THE MOVE, LON NOL SAID HE HAD ALSO INSTRUCTED PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET TO FORM A NEW CABINET URGENTLY TO RESPOND TO CURRENT PROBLEMS.

3. SAK SUTSAKHAN'S ACCESSION HAS GIVEN "YOUNG TURK" COMMANDERS A LIFT AND IMPROVED OVERALL MILITARY MORALE SOMEWHAT. CIVILIANS ARE PLEASED WITH SOSTHENE'S DEPARTURE, BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE HE NEVER WENT HALFWAY TOWARD DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE CIVIL-MILITARY COLLABORATION. COMMENT: RECENT FAVORABLE LOCAL REACTION TO NEWS OF LON NOL'S WILLINGNESS TO DEPART MAY HAVE HELPED PROMPT THE MARSHAL TO SACRIFICE SOSTHENE, AS HE HAD DONE A NUMBER OF PRIME MINISTERS, AS A SCAPEGOAT TO RELIEVE PRESSURE AGAINST HIS OWN POSITION.

4. IN A MOVE TO STRIKE AT A KEY CAUSE OF DECLINING FANK COMBAT POWER, PRESIDENT LON NOL ANNOUNCED THAT, BEGINNING MARCH 14, DESERTERS WOULD HAVE TEN DAYS TO TURN THEMSELVES IN UNDER TERMS OF A GENERAL AMNESTY. THOSE WHO REPORT IN, HE SAID, WILL FORFEIT NEITHER RANK NOR PAY. COMMENT: AT LEAST 3,500 FRONT-LINE TROOPS DESERTED IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, AND RECRUITMENT IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO COVER BOTH COMBAT LOSSES AND THESE DESERTIONS.

5. THE GKR CLOSED A NUMBER OF SCHOOLS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN SECTION OF THE CAPITAL IN RESPONSE TO RECENT ROCKETING THERE. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PHNOM 04902 01 OF 03 181227Z

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

6. THE FOLLOWING EMBASSIES OR MISSIONS HAVE LEFT PHNOM PENH: AUSTRALIA, SINGAPORE, POLAND, ISRAEL AND THE GERMAN INTERESTS SECTION. THE BRITISH WILL BE LEAVING SHORTLY, AND THE FRENCH WITHDREW THEIR DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY STAFF LEAVING, ACCORDING TO THEIR DEPARTED CHARGE, ONLY A SMALL CONSULAR AND CULTURAL OFFICE PRESENCE. REMAINING ARE THE PHILIPPINES, SOUTH KOREA AND SOUTH VIETNAM, MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA, JAPAN, THE NATIONALIST CHINESE MISSION AND OURSELVES. ALL REMAINING EMBASSIES EXCEPT OUR OWN HAVE REDUCED STAFFS.

7. THE NEW INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR ISHAK DJUARSA PRESENTED

HIS LETTERS OF CREDENCE TO PRESIDENT LON NOL MARCH 11.

GRUNK/FUNK

8. SIHANOUK TOLD FRENCH TV AND RADIO MARCH 12 THAT HE BELIEVES THE KHMER ROUGE WILL BE IN POWER IN PHNOM PENH BEFORE THE YEAR'S END. HE ASSERTED THAT THE KHMER ROUGE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE NON-ALIGNED IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BUT "SOMEWHAT RED IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS." THE PRINCE, APPARENTLY ACQUIESCING IN THE FEBRUARY SECOND NATIONAL CONGRESS' DECISION, NOTED THAT THE SEVEN PRINCIPAL AND FORMER GKR LEADERS HAVE BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH, BUT THAT OTHERS WOULD BE GRANTED CLEMENCY IF THEY WERE "NOT TOO LATE" IN COOPERATING WITH GRUNK. COMMENT: SIHANOUK HAD EARLIER TOLD SWEDISH TV AND THEN AFP THAT SOME OF THE SEVEN HAD MADE OVERTURES TO HIM AND MIGHT BE ALLOWED TO RALLY, BUT HE THEN ADMITTED THAT THE INCOUNTRY INSURGENTS HAD NOT CLEARED HIS POSITION.

9. IN A MESSAGE WHICH AMERICAN ANTI-WAR ACTIVISTS JANE FONDA AND TOM HAYDEN MADE PUBLIC, SIHANOUK URGED THAT THE U.S. AIRLIFT THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT OUT OF

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 04902 02 OF 03 181325Z

45

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 OMB-01

TRSE-00 OPR-02 SCA-01 EB-07 COME-00 AGR-05 SY-05 /126 W

----- 100801

P R 181133Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9843

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL UDORN
USIA WASHDC
USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
CGFMFPAC
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 04902 02 OF 03 181325Z

CGUSARSUPTHAI
CINCPAC
CINCPACAF
CINCPACFLT
CDR USA CINCPAC SUPPORT GROUP FT SHAFTER HI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
COMUSSAG
CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR
DIA WASHDC
III MAF
7/13 AF
CTF SEVEN SIX
CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 4902

CAMBODIA TO AVOID A BLOODBATH AND MAKE PEACE POSSIBLE.
HE TOLD A CANADIAN CORRESPONDENT IN PEKING THAT NO
BLOODBATH WILL OCCUR BECAUSE THE KHMER ROUGE HAVE PRO-
CLAIMED THERE WOULD BE NONE UNLESS THE ANTI-COMMUNISTS
RESIST WITH WEAPONS.

10. SIHANOUK'S REMARKS ON FUTURE KHMER INTERNATIONAL

AFFAIRS INCLUDE: A) MENTION THAT CHINA WOULD REMAIN CAMBODIA'S BEST FRIEND; B) NO FUTURE RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, TAIWAN, SOUTH KOREA OR SOUTH VIETNAM; C) THE NEED FOR A REEXAMINATION OF TIES TO THOSE WESTERN "FREE WORLD" COUNTRIES OTHER THAN FRANCE WHICH HAD BEEN "SYSTEMATICALLY HOSTILE" TO GRUNK; D) NO CONTACT WITH THE U.S. AS LONG AS IT CONTINUED TO PROTECT AND SUPPLY LON NOL. IF THE U.S. DROPS LON NOL, GRUNK IS READY TO "NORMALIZE" RELATIONS WITH IT, BUT IF THE U.S. GRANTS NEW FINANCIAL AND MILITARY AID OR INTERVENES MILITARILY, CAMBODIA WILL "NEVER BE FRIENDS WITH IT."

11. SIHANOUK CALLED THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S LIST OF EFFORTS TO GET CAMBODIAN TALKS UNDERWAY "LIES," NOTING THAT HIS OWN PROPOSALS FOR TALKS THROUGH CHOU-EN-LAI AND CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 04902 02 OF 03 181325Z

MAURITANIA'S PRESIDENT HAD BEEN REFUSED.

12. IENG SARY LEFT PEKING "FOR HOME" MARCH 15 WITH ALTERNATE FUNK POLITBURO MEMBER KEAT CHHON AND WIFE ABOARD HIS SPECIAL PLANE. SIHANOUK HOSTED A LUNCH FOR HIM THE DAY BEFORE.

13. ON MARCH 15 KHIEU SAMPHAN BROADCAST AN APPEAL FOR INTENSIFIED STRUGGLE, IN WHICH HE SET FORTH HIS VIEW OF THE GKR'S "AGONY." HE NOTED SERIOUS LOSSES TO THE REPUBLICAN NAVY AND ASSERTED FIRM INSURGENT CONTROL OVER THE MEKONG. HE CLAIMED THE GKR LACKS FORCES AND IS IN A SITUATION OF "GENERAL COLLAPSE." SAMPHAN CONCLUDED THAT THE TIME IS RIGHT AND APPEALED FOR PEOPLE IN GKR ZONES TO RISE UP.

14. CLANDESTINE RADIO HAS BROADCAST A MARCH 12 COMMUNIQUE FROM KHIEU SAMPHAN'S OFFICE CLAIMING THAT THE "LIBERATED ZONE" EXTENDS OVER 97 PERCENT OF KHMER TERRITORY INCLUDING SIX MILLION INHABITANTS. A NUMBER OF CLANDESTINE RADIO BROADCASTS HAVE TAKEN OFF ON THIS NEW BOAST TO APPEAL FOR INSURRECTION.

15. FANK C-IN-C FERNANDEZ' RESIGNATION SERVED AS AN OCCASION TO HEAP ABUSE ON HIM AS ONE OF THE "SEVEN TRAITORS." HIS REPLACEMENT, SAK SUTSAKHAN, WAS DISMISSED AS "AN ARMCHAIR SOLDIER AND AMERICAN PUPPET," BUT HAS NOT YET ENTERED THE ELIMINATION LIST ON A PAR WITH THE SEVEN.

16. THE INSURGENT "BANK OF CAMBODIA" HAS BROADCAST ELABORATE DESCRIPTIONS OF SEVEN NEW GRUNK/FUNK CURRENCY NOTES WHICH WILL "SHORTLY" COME INTO CIRCULATION.

ECONOMIC

17. OPENING RICE STOCKS ON MARCH 17 AMOUNTED TO 8,341 METRIC TONS REPRESENTING A 13-DAY SUPPLY LEVEL BASED ON DAILY DISTRIBUTION OF 545 M/T TO THE POPULATION AT LARGE AND 100 M/T UNDER THE PL-480 TITLE II PROGRAM. (AN ADDITIONAL 50 M/T PER DAY FOR TITLE II WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FROM CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PHNOM 04902 02 OF 03 181325Z

STOCKS IN KOMPONG SOM.) THE TEMPO OF THE RICE AIRLIFT SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED IN THE LAST THREE DAYS, AVERAGING 17.6 SORTIES/713 M/T PER DAY FROM MARCH 15 THROUGH 17. THE DAILY AVERAGE SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE AIRLIFT ON FEBRUARY 27 NOW STANDS AT 12 SORTIES/488 METRIC TONS.

18. THE CIVILIAN POL AIRLIFT IS MEETING THE TARGET OF 120 CUBIC METERS A DAY FROM UTAPAO PLUS 45 CUBIC METERS EVERY OTHER DAY FROM SAIGON.

19. ON MARCH 13 USAID CONTINUED ITS DIALOGUE WITH U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, ENCOURAGING THEM TO PRESS HARDER AND FURTHER TO FEED THE NEEDY OF THE CITY UNDER THE NEWLY INSTITUTED TITLE II RICE PROGRAM. THE VOLAGS AGREED THAT, IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THEIR NEW, EXPANDED PROGRAMS, EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO REACH GREATER NUMBERS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN, ORPHANS, INVALIDS, WAR WIDOWS, AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED. THE NEXT DAY THE GOVERNOR OF PHNOM PENH AND THE MINISTER OF REFUGEES ASSEMBLED OVER 400 SUB-DISTRICT CHIEFS AND ENLISTED THEIR AID IN IDENTIFYING THE NEEDY WITHIN THEIR AREAS AS RECIPIENTS OF U.S.-PROVIDED TITLE II RICE. ONE CHIEF VOLUNTEERED -- AND WAS QUICKLY SUPPORTED BY HIS COLLEAGUES -- TO FORWARD IMMEDIATELY TO THE MINISTRY A LIST OF THE MOST NEEDY IN HIS DISTRICT. ALL CONCERNED GAVE ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSES TO THE MINISTER'S PROPOSAL THAT THEY PARTICIPATE IN A CITY-WIDE CENSUS OF THE POOR, THE FOODLESS AND THE NEEDY. A SECOND MEETING WAS HELD ON MARCH 15 WITH A GROUP FROM OTHER DISTRICTS. THE MINISTER INTENDS TO USE TEACHERS, STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKERS IN THE CENSUS.

20. PRICE TRENDS WERE MIXED IN PHNOM PENH MARKETS DURING THE PAST WEEK. THE OVERALL PRICE LEVEL ROSE SLIGHTLY LESS THAN 2 PERCENT, WITH FRUITS UP 19 PERCENT, FISH UP 11 PERCENT, AND MEAT AND POULTRY UP 3 PERCENT. OFFSETTING THESE INCREASES WERE A 5 PERCENT DECLINE IN BOTH LOCAL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 04902 03 OF 03 181338Z

45

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 SY-05

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01 IO-10 ACDA-05

OMB-01 TRSE-00 OPR-02 SCA-01 EB-07 COME-00 AGR-05

/126 W

----- 101026

P R 181133Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9844

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

USIA WASHDC

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 04902 03 OF 03 181338Z

AMEMBASSY RANGOON
CGFMFPAC
CGUSARSUPTHAI
CINCPAC
CINCPACAF
CINCPACFLT
CDR USA CINCPAC SUPPORT GROUP FT SHAFTER HI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
COMUSSAG
CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR
DIA WASHDC
III MAF
7/13 AF
CTF SEVEN SIX
CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 4902

AND U.S. RICE PRICES, AN AVERAGE 2 PERCENT DROP FOR VEGETABLES, AND A DECLINE FOR LOCAL PRODUCTS OF ALMOST ONE PERCENT. SALT WAS STEADY AND SUGAR DECLINED 7 PERCENT. CHARCOAL ROSE 7 PERCENT WHILE KEROSENE REMAINED STEADY. THE OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE REMAINED AT 1,650 RIELS PER DOLLAR, WHILE THE BLACK MRKET RATE CONTINUED ITS UPWARD TREND FROM 2,055 TO 2,100 RIELS PER DOLLAR. THE PRICE OF GOLD CONTINUED TO DROP FROM 160 TO 156 DOLLARS PER TROY OUNCE.

21. THE VOLAGS CONTINUED A RICE DISTRIBUTION AND FORTIFIED ADDITIVES PROGRAM AT NEAK LUONG. ENEMY PRESSURE THROUGHOUT BATTAMBAG PROVINCE RESULTED IN CONSIDERABLE MOVEMENTS OF POPULATION, SOME TOWARDS BATTAMBAG CITY, ALREADY BURDENED WITH 3,200 FAMILIES WHO FLED FROM MOUNG DISTRICT IN EARLY FEBRUARY, AND OTHERS TOWARD THE BORDER TOWN OF POIPET, WHERE CARE ASSISTED WITH EMERGENCY FEEDING. AS A RESULT OF AN EXCEPTIONALLY LIGHT RICE HARVEST, THE CITY OF KOMPONG THOM HAS BEEN WITHOUT ADEQUATE FOOD SUPPLIES. AN AIRLIFT OF RICE TO THAT CITY HAS NOW BE-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 04902 03 OF 03 181338Z

GUN. FOR REASONS OF SECURITY, CRS, CARE AND WORLD VISION NOW HAVE WITHDRAWN FIELD PERSONNEL FROM ALL THE PROVINCES, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE CARE STATION IN POIPET, AND A CRS TEAM IN KOMPONG SOM.

MILITARY

22. AT BANAM-NEAK LUONG ON THE MEKONG A CLEARING OPERATION SUCCESSFULLY REDUCED AN ENEMY PENETRATION SOUTHEAST OF BANAM AND RESTORED LAND COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO TOWNS. HOWEVER, AT THE SAME TIME, THE KC WERE SUCCESSFULLY REDUCING THE LAST FANK POSITIONS ON THE WEST BANK OPPOSITE NEAK LUONG, EXPOSING THE NAVY'S MOBILE SUPPORT BASE (MSB) AND THE CITY TO DIRECT FIRE. THE MSB WAS ABANDONED, BURNING, DURING THE NIGHT OF MARCH 17-18 AFTER SUSTAINING SEVERAL HOURS OF ABF'S FROM SHORT RANGE. NEAK LUONG ITSELF TOOK A CONSIDERABLE POUNDING FROM KC ARTILLERY THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD WITH HEAVY CIVILIAN CASUALTIES REPORTED. THE NEAK LUONG COMMANDER, BRIG. GEN. NOP PARAMOUN IS HOSPITALIZED AND THE ABLE KOMPONG CHAM DEPUTY COMMANDER, BRIG. GEN. LIM SISAATH HAS REPLACED HIM.

23. ON MARCH 15 THE KC DROVE OFF SEVERAL POSITIONS ON NEAK LUONG'S SOUTHEAST PERIMETER, PENETRATING TO WITHIN A FEW HUNDRED METERS OF THE CITY. A DETERMINED COUNTER-ATTACK BY THE 19TH BATTALION (4TH BRIGADE) ON MARCH 16 RESTORED THE SITUATION AND RESULTED IN 75 ENEMY KILLED. THE KC ATTACKED AGAIN THE SAME NIGHT, LOSING 57 MORE. THE LOSS OF THE WEST BANK POSITION, COUPLED WITH HEAVY ABF'SN HAS MADE THE NEAK LUONG POSITION EXTREMELY PRECARIOUS. NEAK LUONG IS CURRENTLY SHELTERING ABOUT 70,000 PEOPLE, MAINLY REFUGEES.

24. ON MARCH 15, A COMBINED FORCE WITH ARMOR AND AIR SUPPORT RECAPTURED THE KEY POSITION AT TUOL LEAP NORTHWEST OF POCHENTONG AIRPORT. AN IMMEDIATE REDUCTION IN THE VOLUME OF ROCKET AND ARTILLERY ATTACKS ON POCHENTONG RESULTED. THE OPERATION IS SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE ON 19 MARCH TO SWEEP THE KC FROM THE AREA NORTHEAST OF TUOL LEAP IN ORDER TO PUSH HIM EFFECTIVELY OUT OF RANGE FOR ANY FIRING ON THE BASE. NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH, ALONG ROUTE 5, THE KC CONTINUED TO KEEP 7TH DIVISION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PHNOM 04902 03 OF 03 181338Z

FORCES UNDER PRESSURE BY DAILY ATTACKS AND ATTACKS BY FIRE. TOWARD THE END OF THE PERIOD THE KC BEGAN TO PRESSURE FANK POSTS ALONG THE NORTH DIKE ROAD, SOUTH OF THE 7TH DIVISION.

25. ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY, DAILY ATTACKS AND ABF'S CONTINUED TO INFLICT CASUALTIES ON FANK FORCES AND CIVILIANS ALIKE AT KAMPOT BUT THE DEFENDERS APPEAR TO BE HOLDING. IN BATTAMBANG PROVINCE, THE KC ARE EXPLOITING THEIR SUCCESSES SOUTH OF THE CITY, KEEPING SVAY CHEAT AND PREY SVAY UNDER ATTACK. ATTACKS WERE ALSO

CONDUCTED AGAINST BAVEL, NORTHWEST OF THE CITY. TWO NOTABLE FANK SUCCESSES WERE REGISTERED IN PURSAT AND KOMPONG CHHNANG, WHERE M113-SUPPORTED INFANTRY KILLED 37 KC IN EACH OF TWO CLEARING OPERATIONS ON MARCH 13.

26. NAVY COMMANDER REAR ADMIRAL VONG SARENDY HAS HALTED CONVOY ATTEMPTS FROM PHNOM PENH TO NEAK LUONG DUE TO THE HIGH RISK AND THE NEED FOR REPAIRS TO MNK'S CARGO BOTTOMS. ONE ILL-FATED EFFORT THIS WEEK LOST FOUR SHIPS AT A KC BARRICADE ACROSS THE MEKONG RIVER CHOKEPOINT AT DEI DOH. SINCE JANUARY 1 THE NAVY HAS LOST AN AVERAGE OF ONE CRAFT EVERY TWO DAYS.
DEAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KHMER REPORT, POLITICAL SUMMARIES, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PHNOM04902
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750094-0265
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750340/aaaabjzd.tel
Line Count: 560
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 11
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <14 AUG 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KHMER REPORT --MARCH 18, 1975 GENERAL
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, ECON, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006